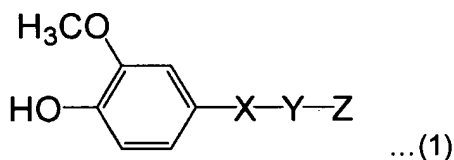


IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1-34 in accordance with the following:

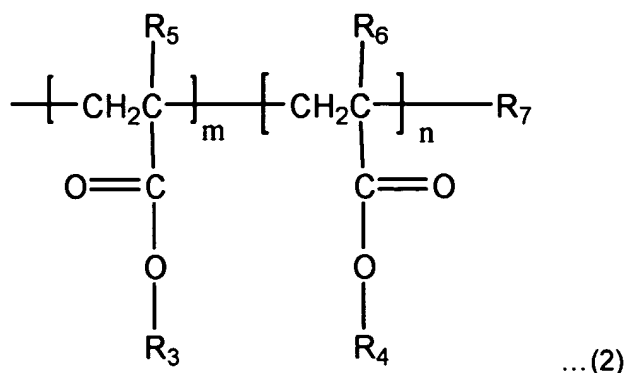
1. (currently amended) A- An additive being a 2-methoxyphenol derivative having formula (1) below:



where X is selected from the group consisting of a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₃₀ alkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₃₀ alkenylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₃₀ alkynylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₆-C₃₀ arylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₇-C₃₀ arylalkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₃₀ heteroalkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₃₀ heteroarylene group, and a substituted or unsubstituted C₃-C₃₀ heteroarylalkylene group;

Y is selected from the group consisting of -O-, -NR-, -N(H)=N(H)-, -S-, -P-, -C(=O)-NR-, -NR-C(=O)-, -S(=O)(=O)O-, -C(=O)O-, -O-C(=O)-, -P(=O)O-, -C(=O)-O-C(=O)-, -C(=O)-S-C(=O)-, -C(=O)-NR-C(=O)-, -C(=NH)-O-C(=NH)-, -C(=S)-O-C(=S)-, -C(=NH)-NR-C(=NH)-, -C(=S)-NR-C(=S)-, -C(=NH)-S-C(=NH)-, and -C(=S)-S-C(=S)-, where R is a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₅ alkyl group; and

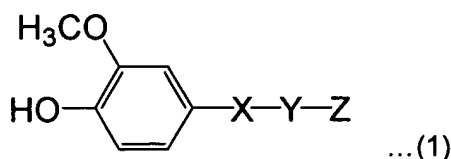
Z is selected from the group consisting of a group having the formula of -(CH₂CH₂O)_a-(CH₂CH(CH₃)O)_b-(CH₂CH₂O)_c-H where a, b, and c are independently integers from 1 to 20 and a group having formula (2) below:



where R₃ and R₄ are independently C₁-C₁₀ alkyl groups; R₅ and R₆ are independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R₇ is selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₃₀ alkylene group, a C₂-C₃₀ alkenylene group, a C₂-C₃₀ alkynylene group, a C₆-C₃₀ arylene group, a C₇-C₃₀ arylalkylene group, a C₁-C₃₀ heteroalkylene group, a C₂-C₃₀ heteroarylene group, and a C₃-C₃₀ heteroarylalkylene group, which have a terminal group selected from the group consisting of a ~~phosphoric~~ phosphoric acid or a salt thereof, a phosphoric acid or a salt thereof, a sulfonic acid or a salt thereof, -OH, and -NH₂; and m and n are independently real numbers from 1 to 10 where m+n ≥ 2.

2. (currently amended) ~~An ink-A~~ composition comprising:

about 4 to 100% by weight with respect to a total mass of the composition, of the a 2-methoxyphenol derivative having formula (1) below:

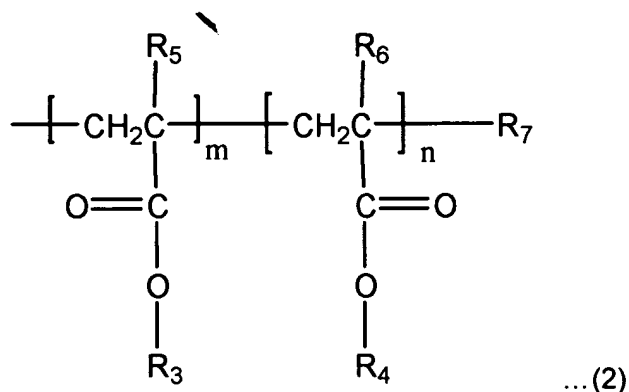


where X is selected from the group consisting of a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₃₀ alkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₃₀ alkenylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₃₀ alkynylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₆-C₃₀ arylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₇-C₃₀ arylalkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₃₀ heteroalkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₃₀ heteroarylene group, and a substituted or unsubstituted C₃-C₃₀ heteroarylalkylene group;

Y is selected from the group consisting of -O-, -NR-, -N(H)=N(H)-, -S-, -P-, -C(=O)-NR-,

-NR-C(=O)-, -S(=O)(=O)O-, -C(=O)O-, -O-C(=O)-, -P(=O)O-, -C(=O)-O-C(=O)-, -C(=O)-S-C(=O)-, -C(=O)-NR-C(=O)-, -C(=NH)-O-C(=NH)-, -C(=S)-O-C(=S)-, -C(=NH)-NR-C(=NH)-, -C(=S)-NR-C(=S)-, -C(=NH)-S-C(=NH)-, and -C(=S)-S-C(=S)-, where R is a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₅ alkyl group; and

Z is selected from the group consisting of a group having the formula of -(CH₂CH₂O)_a-(CH₂CH(CH₃)O)_b-(CH₂CH₂O)_c-H where a, b, and c are independently integers from 1 to 20 and a group having formula (2) below:



where R₃ and R₄ are independently C₁-C₁₀ alkyl groups; R₅ and R₆ are independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R₇ is selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₃₀ alkylene group, a C₂-C₃₀ alkenylene group, a C₂-C₃₀ alkynylene group, a C₆-C₃₀ arylene group, a C₇-C₃₀ arylalkylene group, a C₁-C₃₀ heteroalkylene group, a C₂-C₃₀ heteroarylene group, and a C₃-C₃₀ heteroarylalkylene group, which have a terminal group selected from the group consisting of a ~~phosphore~~-phosphoric acid or a salt thereof, a phosphoric acid or a salt thereof, a sulfonic acid or a salt thereof, -OH, and -NH₂; and m and n are independently real numbers from 1 to 10 where m+n ≥ 2;

0 to about 92% by weight with respect to the total mass of the composition, of an aqueous medium; and

0 to about 4% by weight with respect to the total mass of the composition of a colorant.

3. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition of claim 2, wherein an amount of the 2-methoxyphenol derivative is in a range of 0.1-20 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the ink composition.

4. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition of claim 2, wherein the aqueous medium is water

or a mixture of water and an organic solvent.

5. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition of claim 4, wherein the amount of the organic solvent in the aqueous medium is in a range of 2-50 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the aqueous medium.

6. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition of claim 4, wherein the organic solvent is at least one selected from the group consisting of methyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol, n-propyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, n-butyl alcohol, sec-butyl alcohol, t-butyl alcohol, isobutyl alcohol, acetone, methylethyl ketone, diacetone alcohol, ethyl acetate, ethyl lactate, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, 1,4-butane diol, 1,2,4-butane triol, 1,5-pentane diol, 1,2-hexane diol, 1,6-hexane diol, 1,2,6-hexane triol, hexylene glycol, glycerol, glycerol ethoxylate, trimethylolpropane ethoxylate, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, diethylene glycol methyl ether, diethylene glycol ethyl ether, diethylene glycol methyl ether, diethylene glycol ethyl ether, triethylene glycol monomethyl ether, triethylene glycol monoethyl ether, 2-pyrrolidone, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, caprolactam, dimethyl sulfoxide, tetramethylene sulfone, and thioglycol.

7. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition according to claim 2, further including at least one of: a viscosity adjuster, a surfactant, a storage stabilizer, and a wetting agent.

8. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition according to claim 7, wherein the viscosity adjuster includes at least one of: polyvinyl alcohol, casein, and carboxymethylcellulose.

9. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition according to claim 8, wherein an amount of the viscosity adjuster is in a range of 0.1-5.0 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of a total weight of the 2-methoxy phenol derivative, the aqueous medium, and the colorant.

10. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition according to claim 7, wherein the surfactant is one of: an anionic surfactant, a cationic surfactant and a nonionic surfactant.

11. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition according to claim 10, wherein an

amount of the surfactant is in a range of 0.1-5.0 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the ink composition.

12. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition according to claim 7, wherein the wetting agent of the ink composition includes at least one of: polyhydric alcohols, in particular, glycerin, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, hexylene glycol, 1,3-butanediol, 1,4-butanediol, 1,5-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, 2-butene-1,4-diol, 2-methyl-2-pentanediol, and a mixture of the foregoing alcohols.

13. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition according to claim 12, wherein an amount of the wetting agent is in a range of 2-40 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the total weight of 2-methoxy phenol derivative, an aqueous medium, and a colorant.

14. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition according to claim 2, wherein the colorant includes a disperse dye or pigment.

15. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition according to claim 14, wherein the disperse dye is at least one of: DISPERSE YELLOW 3, DISPERSE YELLOW 54, DISPERSE YELLOW 82, DISPERSE RED 60, DISPERSE RED 375, DISPERSE VIOLET 17, DISPERSE RED 4, DISPERSE RED 11, DISPERSE BLUE 60, DISPERSE BLUE 359, DISPERSE BLUE 14, DISPERSE BLUE 3, DISPERSE BLUE 72, and DISPERSE BLUE 56.

16. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition according to claim 14, wherein the pigment is at least one of: carbon black, graphite, vitreous carbon, activated charcoal, activated carbon, anthraquinone, phthalocyanine blue, phthalocyanine green, diazos, monoazos, pyranthrones, perylene, quinacridone, and indigoid pigments.

17. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition according to claim 2, wherein an amount of the colorant is in a range of 0.1-20 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the ink composition.

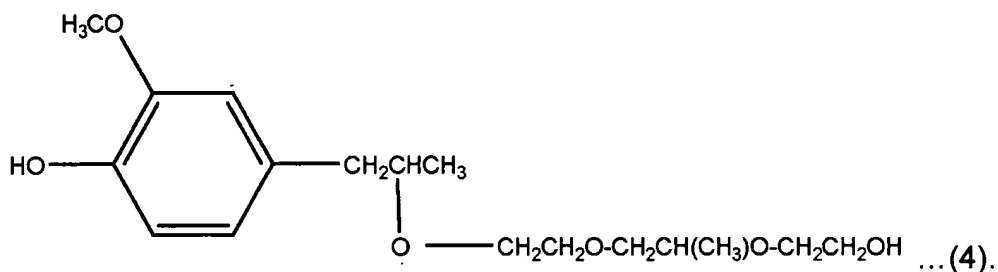
18. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition according to claim 2, wherein an amount of the colorant is in a range of 0.5-15 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the

ink composition.

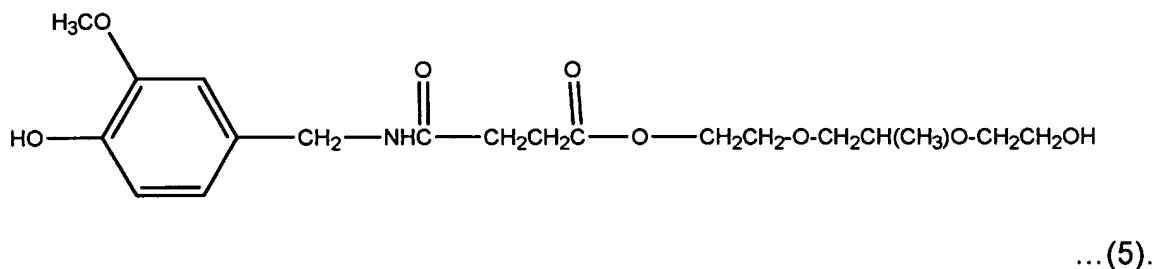
19. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~ composition according to claim 14, further including an acid or a base to increase solubility of the disperse dye in a solvent and stabilize the dispersion of the pigment.

20. (currently amended) The ~~2-methoxyphenol derivative of formula (1)~~ additive of claim 1, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative is one of: a toner composition, a paint, and a coating solution.

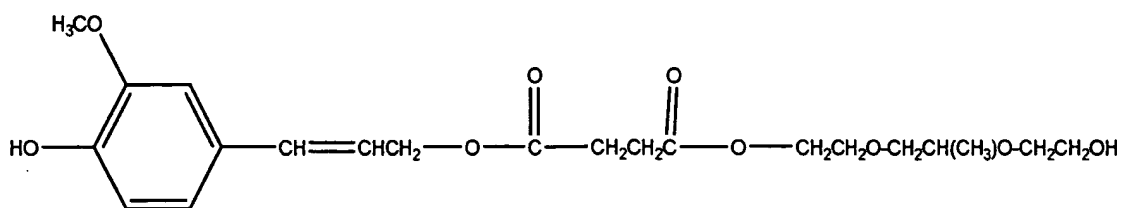
21. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~ composition of claim 2, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative has a formula of (4):



22. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~ composition of claim 2, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative has a formula of (5):

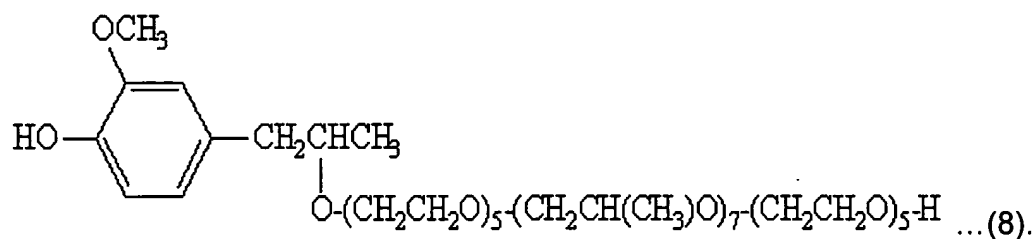


23. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~ composition of claim 2, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative has a formula of (6):



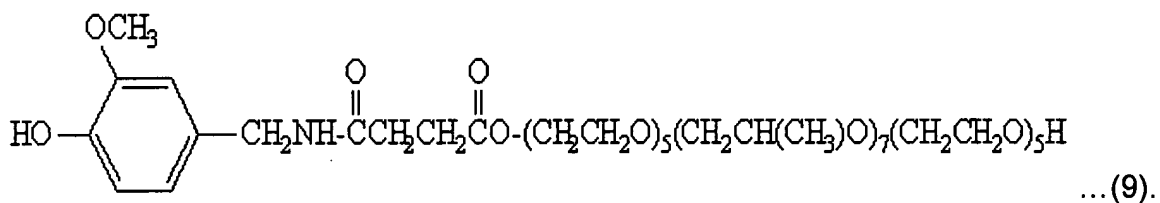
... (6).

24. (currently amended) The ink composition of claim 2, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative has a formula of (8):



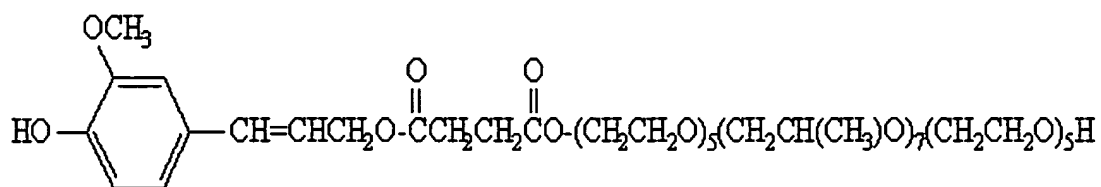
... (8).

25. (currently amended) The ink composition of claim 2, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative has a formula of (9):



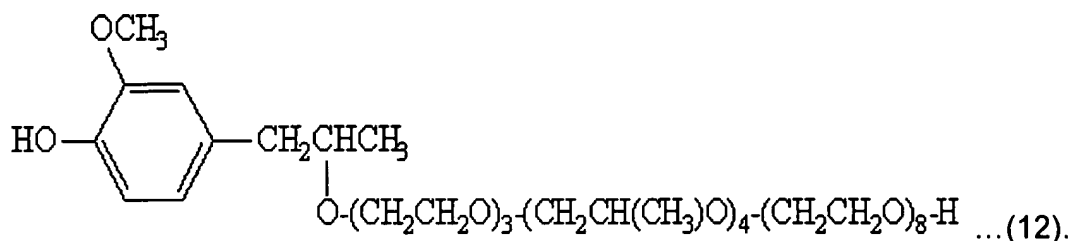
... (9).

26. (currently amended) The ink composition of claim 2, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative has a formula of (10):

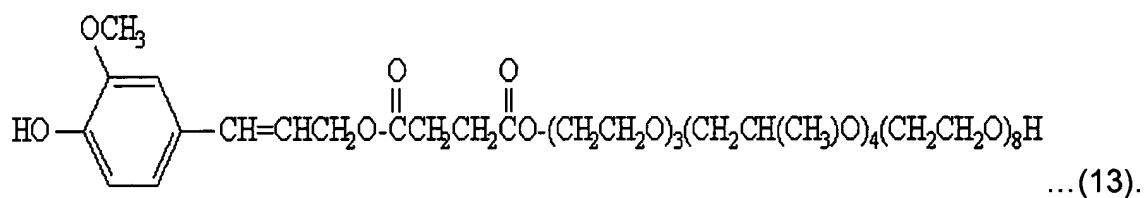


...(10).

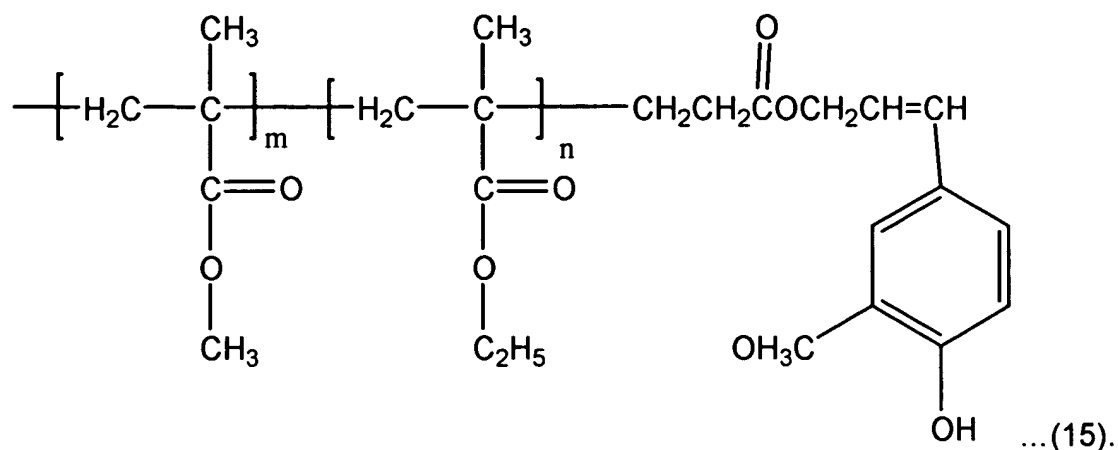
27. (currently amended) The ink composition of claim 2, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative has a formula of (12):



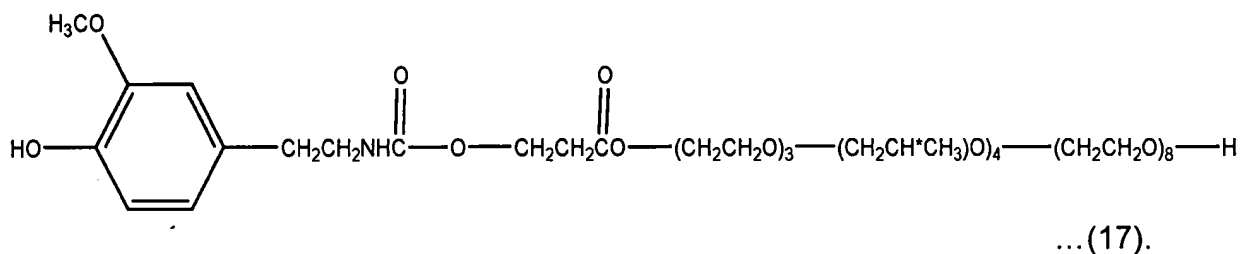
28. (currently amended) The ink composition of claim 2, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative has a formula of (13):



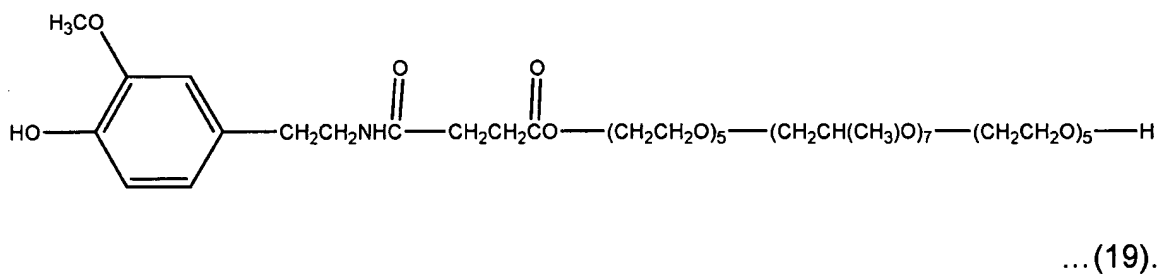
29. (currently amended) The ink composition of claim 2, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative has a formula of (15):



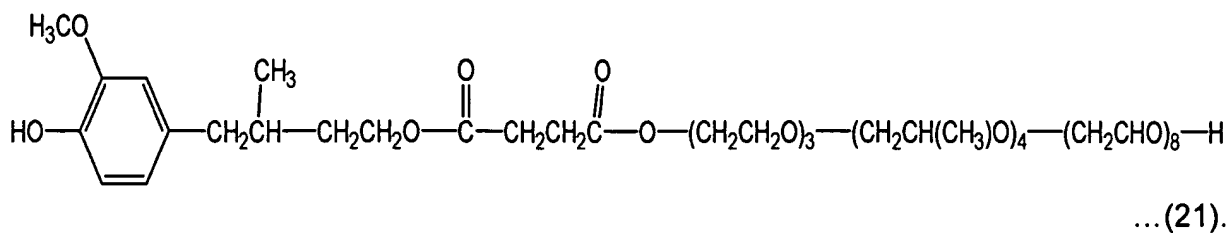
30. (currently amended) The ink-composition of claim 2, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative has a formula of (17):



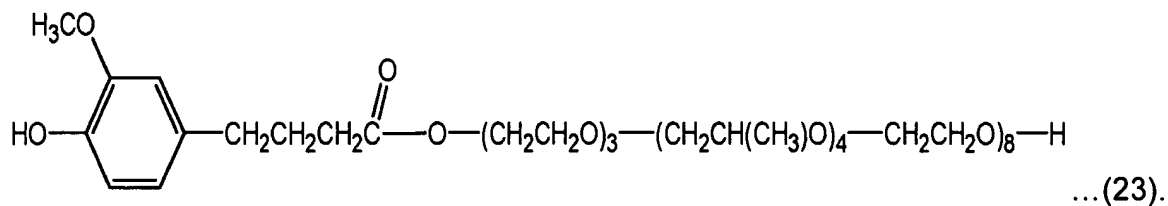
31. (currently amended) The ink-composition of claim 2, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative has a formula of (19):



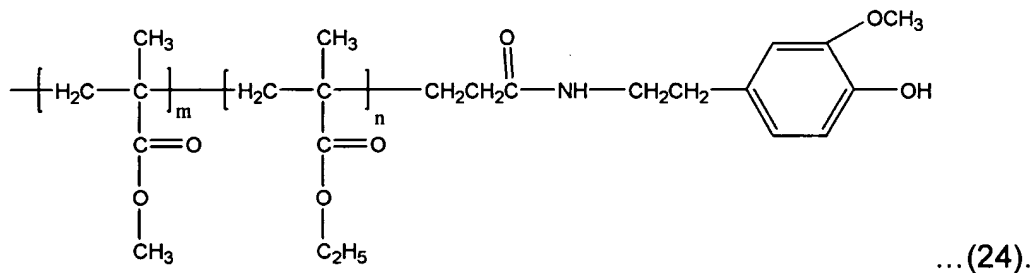
32. (currently amended) The ink-composition of claim 2, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative has a formula of (21):



33. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition of claim 2, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative has a formula of (23):



34. (currently amended) The ~~ink~~-composition of claim 2, wherein the 2-methoxyphenol derivative has a formula of (24):



AMENDMENT OF CLAIMS 1-34:

Claims 1-34 have been amended for clarity.

POSSIBLE ERROR IN CLAIM GROUPS:

It is respectfully submitted that since claim 20 depends from claim 1, claim 20 is probably supposed to be listed in Group I instead of in Group II. Thus, this assumption is utilized in the following election.

I. Provisional Election of Claims Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.142

Applicants provisionally elect **Group II (amended claims 2-19 and 21-34)** in response to the preliminary restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action.

II. Applicants Traverse the Requirement

Insofar as Groups I (amended claims 1 and 20) and II (amended claims 2-19 and 21-34) are concerned, it is believed that amended claims 1 and 20 are so closely related to elected amended claims 2-19 and 21-34 that they should remain in the same application. The elected amended claims 2-19 and 21-34 are directed to a composition, which is respectfully submitted not to be a process ("The words "method" and "process" are interchangeable in the patent law, although "process" is perhaps more frequently used in chemical cases, while "method" is more usual in mechanical and electrical cases." Landis on Mechanics of Patent Claim Drafting, by Robert C. Faber, Practising Law Institute, Copyright 1974, 1978, 1990, p. 99), as is submitted by the Examiner. Amended claims 1 and 20 are drawn to an additive being a 2-methoxyphenol derivative which comprises at least part of the composition claimed in amended claims 2-19 and 21-34. Since the composition of amended claims 2-19 and 21-34 is not a process, the Examiner's arguments with respect to a process are considered to be immaterial to the consideration of whether amended claims 1 and 20 should be considered together with amended claims 2-19 and 21-34. Further, the composition of amended claims 2-19 and 21-34 includes, at least in part, the additive of amended claim 1.

There have been no references cited to show any necessity for requiring restriction and, in fact, it is believed that the Examiner would find references containing the Group I claim and the Group II claims in the same field of technology. While it is noted that the Examiner has identified different classifications for the Group I claim and the Group II claims, it is believed that classification is not conclusive on the question of restriction. It is believed, moreover, that evaluation of the two sets of claims would not provide an undue burden upon the Examiner at

this time in comparison with the additional expense and delay to Applicants in having to protect the additional subject matter recited by the Groups I and II claims by filing a divisional application.

MPEP §803 sets forth the criteria for restriction between patentably distinct inventions. (A) indicates that the inventions must be independent (see MPEP §802.01, §806.04, §808.01) or distinct as claimed (see MPEP §806.05-806.05(i)); and (B) indicates that there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is required (see MPEP §803.02, §806.04(a)- §806.04(i), §808.01(a) and §808.02). It is respectfully submitted that the Group I claims and Group II claims are not patentably distinct. Also, the Examiner has not set forth why there would be a serious burden if restriction is required.

III. Conclusion

Upon review of references involved in this field of technology, when considering that the Group II claims (amended claims 2-19 and 21-34) are directed to a composition that includes, at least in part, the additive of the Group I claims, and the Group I claims (amended claims 1 and 20) are directed to an additive being a 2-methoxyphenol derivative, and when all of the other various facts are taken into consideration, it is believed that upon reconsideration of the Examiner's initial restriction requirement, all of the pending claims should be examined in the subject application.

In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our deposit account number 19-3935.

Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: July 18, 2005

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